

The Parish of Saint Giles-in-Reading

Report of the Churchwardens to the Annual Parochial Meeting 18th May 2025 On the year ending 31st December 2024

The current churchwardens would like to thank all who give so freely of their time to ensure the smooth running of the church.

Repairs to and care of the Church. The usual round of routine maintenance has been completed. The heating system has worked well through the winter. Annual testing and servicing required on the lightning conductor, Clock, Fire Extinguishers, Emergency Lighting and Heating System have all be completed. The five yearly inspection of the electrics in church took place in 2024 with very little remedial action required. Regular cleaning sessions attended by any who can join in are run once more and it is a good way to meet others who we might not normally have a chance to work with, it also helps with learning a bit more about the building and what is needed to keep it in good order.

Sidesmen. The office of sidesman is an ancient one, yet is still very important today. Every person who comes into church on Sunday morning needs to be greeted and made to feel welcome. A new cohort of sidesmen were elected by the PCC but we still need more people to help with this vital function. Please do consider offering to become a sidesman; training in the role will be given.

Mission. We continue to broadcast our main services live, on-line, and this enables some of our regular worshipers to feel part of the congregation either by participating via video or joining by phone. Daily Compline, on-line, allows others who do not come to our church to join with the parish family in prayer. The regular study groups continue to run throughout the year. The ringing of the church bells has allows to mark national and local events and act as a call to worship on Sunday. We are grateful for the efforts of the ringers year-round. Work in supporting CIRDIC has continued as normal.

It was a particular joy to welcome the Bishop of Oswestry to celebrate and preach in Advent. It is our great pleasure to welcome Fr Stephen Cousins to join the ministry team as he now holds PTO. Of special note is the work carried out by Mr Haynes, in the church yard. A weekly inspection and litter clearing helps keep this green space in good order. Also his listing of the names on the gravestones, who are then prayed for each week in our Sunday Intercessions is profoundly moving.

Finances. THE ST GILES CHURCH LANDS CHARITY, registered charity number 1086383. A copy of audited accounts is presented. Considerable time has been expended with regard to ensuring that leases on some of the properties are being adhered to.

S. E. Mott.
Churchwarden

S. G. Gooding
Churchwarden

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2024

2023 £ -----		2024 £ -----		2023 £ -----		2024 £ -----
	<u>Receipts</u>				<u>Payments</u>	
41,166	Rental Income	38,596.20		446	Church Heating	1,755.13
21,533	Dividends and Interest	21,832.91		2,692	Church Electrics	6,257.56
0	Miscellaneous			14,004	Church Fabric, other	1,185.84
				11,695	Insurance	12,076.27
				1,635	Property Expenses	6,717.60
				1,101	Rates	1,075.85
-	Excess of Payments over Receipts	-		507	Miscellaneous Expenditure	635.41
				30,619	Excess of Receipts over Payments	30,725.45
£ 62,699		£ 60,429.11		£ 62,699		£ 60,429.11
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Notes :

- 1 Rental incomes are shown gross as received, with expenditure relating to those properties, entered as expenses.
- 2 The Charity comprises the historical estate (set out in the 1599 inquisition), and the Walmsley, Griffin and Melrose Bequests.
- 3 The Churchwardens as trustees of the St Giles Church Lands Charity own : 54-58 (even), 80 and 104 London Street all subject to building leases with more than 100 years unexpired : and 70 Southampton Street, the frontage let to a car dealer, and the rear car park let to the County Dancing School.

Examiner's Certificate

I have examined the Books of Account of the St Giles Church Lands Charity together with the Receipts and Vouchers for the year ended 31 December 2024. In my opinion the attached Receipts and Payments Account, showing a surplus for the year of £30,725.45 and the Statement of Assets and Liabilities give a true and fair representation of the financial state of the Charity's funds as at 31 December 2024.

Graham Shaw
Donovan Tax and Accounting
Independent Examiners

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graham', followed by a long horizontal flourish.